TRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) There is no proposal at present to offer concessions in customs duties to NRIs on the basis of remittances made by them.

(b) Does not arise.

Comparative earnings of Nationalised and Foreign banks operating in the Country

31. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is big difference in the earnings of the nationalis ed banks and of foreign banks operating in the country; I!

(b) if so, what are the comparative figures of earning of these banks during the last three years; and

(c) what steps are being taken to im prove the earnings of the nationalised banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND **THE** DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH); (a) and (b) The position of published profits earned by the foreign banks out of their Indian operations and the Indian nationalised banks during the last three years is as under:

	As on 31-12-87	As on 3-1989	As on 31-3-90
		(Rs. in crores)	
Published profits of foreign bank operating in India	66- 59	116-73	184-98
Published profits of Indian nationalised banks .	206- 96	254-16	243- 60

(*for 18 banks)

(c) The financial position and performance of the nationalised banks is reviewed by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India on an on going basis. Government and Reserve Bank of India have taken a series of measures to improve the performance and profitability of the public sector banks. These include augmentation of their capital, enhancement of service charges, rationalisation of interest rates structure and levy of commitment charges on unutilised portion of operating limits. Banks have also been advised to take measures to control expenditure on consumption of petrol, publicity etc., draw up action plans to improve their operation efficiency and take other measures to strengthen their viability and profitability by means of effective business planning and development. Banks have also been advised by Reserve Bank of India to initiate action against the officials found to be involved in cases of frauds.

Increase in Transport cost and prices of essential commodities due to hike in prices of petroleum products

32. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV SHANKER DAVE; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that as a result of increase in the prices of petroleum products due to Gulf surcharge, there will be increase in the transportation cost and also in the prices of essential, commodities; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to curb the rise in prices of essential commodities and the transportation hike?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE; MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH); fa) and (b) Government are aware of the inflationary

implications of the increase in the prices of petroleum products and have taken several measures both on the demand and supply side towards keeping these pressures under check. These include, release of adequate quantities of foodgrains, sugar etc. for distribution under Public Distribution System, curbing growth of liquidity in the system to keep demand under check and checking the speculative tendencies.

Low capacity utilization by HDP woven sack, units in Gujrat due to the implementation of Jute packing Materials Act, 1987

33. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that on account of implementation of the Jute Packing Materials Act, 1987 about 150 HDP woven sack units established in Gujarat are working below capacity;

(b) whether any representations have been received by Government for taking remedial steps by way of reducing percentage of production to be packed jute packing materia] for the cement and fertilizer units located in Gujarat; and

(c) If so, what action has been taken/ proposed to be taken by Government to ensure survival of the large number of SSI units which are going Sick due to operation of the Order?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Plastic Sacking or HDPE units from different parts of the country including from Gujarat have been representing from time to time that the Reservation Orders issued by the Government in terms of the provisions of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 have affected their capacity utilization and economic viability. Government are of the view that the interests of the traditional jute packaging sector and the synthetic plastic units should be harmonised and both of them should co-exist by having a legitimate share of the packaging of various sectors of the economy, *viz* foodgrains, sugar, cement and fertilizers, Keeping this objective in view the Reservation Orders have been in force over the last three years which has provided in the opinion of the Government reasonable share for the jute as well as synthetic sacking units. Government of India in consulation with the Government of Gujarat have also initiated a dialogue with the synthetic woven sack units in this state in order to bring about harmonised co-existence between Jute and HDPE units.

Production and Export of black Pepper

34. SHRI M. M. JACOB; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of black pepper exported during the last five years year-wise and the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(b) whether Government are contemp lating any major scheme to increase pro duction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL); (a) Export of black pepper from 1985-86 to 1989-90 has been as follows:—

Year	Qty (MT)	Value (Rs. Lacs)
1985-86	37620	17248
1986-87	37083	20033
1987-88	41011	24058
1988-89	38020	16420
1989-90 •	36601	15988

(b) Yes, Sir.

During the 8th Five Year Plan period there is a proposal to take up integrated programme for development of spices